Voters Identity Cards

394. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in providing Voters Identity Cards by the Election Commission;

(b) if so, the percentage of electorate provided Identity Cards by the Election Commission, so far, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) by when all the voters are expected to be provided with such cards and its use made mandatory for casting vote in election; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to remove the discrepancies noticed, so far, for preparation of the Identity Cards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the progress made in the issuance of defect free photo identity cards to electors in the country is enclosed *(see* below).

(c) A sum of Rs. 424, 45, 61,710/- has so far been released by the Central Government to the States/Union Territories towards reimbursement of its share of expenditure on the scheme of electors' photo identity cards.

(d) The scheme to issue photo identity cards to electors is not a project but a programme for the completion of which no time limit can be fixed as the registration of electors is a continuous and ongoing process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of electoral process) on account of more number of persons becoming eligible for the right of franchise on attaining the age of 18 years as also due to movement of electors. The Election Commission has already made the use of these cards alongwith other forms of identification compulsory for identification of voters during the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Haryana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Pondicherry in 2001 and during the current General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Punjab, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh.

(e) The Central Government has not been assigned any specific role in the implementation of the scheme except that it has to reimburse 50% of the

expenditure on the scheme. The Election Commission of India, which monitors and implements the scheme, has informed that it has issued instructions that the electors' photo identity card numbers should be reflected against names of the holders in the electoral roll. It has also provided for necessary safeguards for dealing with any discrepancies occurring in the way of implementation of the scheme.

Statement

Status report on progress of electors' photo identity cards

Sl.	States/UTs	Total Electors	Electors issued with defect-free Identity cards	Percentage (4 as % of 3)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50,898,945	32,568,407	63.99
2.	Arunachal pradesh	638,718	373,452	58.47
3.	Assam	14,426,221	67,479	0.47
4.	Bihar	58,438,317	21,681,836	37.10
5.	Goa	934,980	518,103	55.41
6.	Gujarat	30,437,773	23,177,051	76.15
7.	Haryana	12,248,696	9,105,465	74.34
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3,773,424	2,657,692	70.43
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5,022,782	0	0.00
10.	Karnataka	35,123,307	24,612,144	70.07
11.	Kerala	22,835,568	18,344,689	80.33
12.	Madhya Pradesh	32,055,990	22,452,302	70.04
13.	Maharashtra	58,285,729	44,455,999	76.27
14.	Manipur	1,441,936	1,033,733	71.69
15.	Meghalaya	1,192,198	713,079	59.81
16.	Mizoram	457,434	0	0.00
17.	Nagaland	966,275	625,996	64.78
18.	Orissa	25,049,023	18,232,312	72.79
19.	Punjab	15,606,639	11,785,471	75.52
20.	Rajasthan	31,543,376	23,797,921	75.45
21.	Sikkim	257,062	200,077	77.83
22.	Tamil Nadu	47,365,189	31,662,414	66.85
23.	Tripura	1,848,602	1,249,171	67.57
24.	Uttar Pradesh	98,863,132	56,419,336	57.07

1	2	3	4	5
25.	West Bengal	48,672,291	41,699,354	85.67
26.	A & N Islands	258,296	195,072	75.52
27.	Chandigarh	538,607	381,048	70.75
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	111,847	86,800	77.61
29.	Daman & Diu	71,931	45,645	63.46
30.	NCT of Delhi	8,707,531	5,800,683	66.62
31.	Lakshadweep	36,738	31,813	86.59
32.	Pondicherry	658,927	555,675	84.33
33.	Chhattisgarh	12,737,705	5,398,879	42.39
34.	Jharkhand*	—	—	—
35.	Uttaranchal	5,167,525	2,726,709	52.77
	All India Total	626,672,714	402,655,806	64.25

* Included in Bihar. Separate figures for the State are not available.

Note: Programme in Assam and Mizoram is currently not under way as there are disputes regarding illegal immigration and citizenship issues.

Shortage of Judges

395. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the shortage of Judges in various courts in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra has shortfall of 60 Judges; and

(c) whether Government are going to fill-up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The shortage of Judges in various High Courts and in District/Subordinate Courts, State-wise, are as per Statement I and II respectively (*See* below).

(b) As per the available information, there were 173 vacant posts of judges and magistrates in the State of Maharashtra as on 13.7.2001.

(c) Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the subordinate courts is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State under the provisions of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India. The Central Government have been periodically urging the State Governments/Union Territories and the High